TAPE NO. 50

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NARRATOR Maud Fields Scott

INTERVIEWER PHyllis Lotz

PLACE Scott Home, Santa Maria

DATE Sept. 10, 1986

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Interview with Maud Fields Scott, Interview 1
Date: 10, Sept. 1986, Santa Maria, California
Interviewer: Phyllis Lotz
Transcriber: Phyllis Lotz
Begin Tape 1, Side 1

PL: Mrs. Scott, can you tell me alittle about your Grandparents?

Scott: My Grandparents were Edmund and Lucy Fields, they lived in Santa Ynez as far as I can remember, then the Grandparents on my Mother's side were Belt and Mary Jamison, and as early as I knew them they lived in Naples, near Santa Barbara. There was a depot and train stop and we used to visit them and get on the train to Santa Barbara. And Aunts and Uncles lived very close to them at Naples.

PL: They must have bought property at Naples?

Scott: I don't know if they bought or rented.

PL: That is interesting because there is no such place as Naples now.

Scott: No, its gone, but I do have a picture of Naples, a newpaper picture, and shows they places where people lived. There was a woman there who had alot of money she lived up on the hill, built a church, name was Williams, and she had a lot of pug dogs, and we kids were scared to death of her pug dogs and she wanted us to be scared of them because she did not want us hanging around her house. She had a huge house up on the hill. She had a man(hired help) named George, and she had lots of Shetland ponies, and when we ever went to visit Grandmother and Grandfather, we always got to ride the ponies and that was a big event in those days.

PL: What happened after they left Naples, did they go to the back country?

Scott: No, Grandmother passed away while they were living at Naples and later an aunt, Hannah Eddy, who was Mother's sister took Grandfather into her home until he passed away. She lived in one of those canyons that would be east pf Refugio Beach. They lived there a number of years.

PL: Where was your Mother born?

Scott: My Mother was born in San Jose, and Father was born in Illinois. His parents migrated first to Oregon, then Colusa County, then drifted down and ended in the Santa Ynez Valley, and that is where Mother met Father, Ezra Fields. Where they both lived and farmed and just a few years ago, Grandmother and Grandfather Fields house was bulldozed down. I had a cousin in Santa Barbara, that had been up in Santa Ynez, Happy Canyon, just the day before they bulldozed the house down and she took a picture, some where I have that picture.

PL: What year would this have been?

Scott: Late 1940's, but the pine tree is still standing where Grandfather tied his horse, so I see that when we go by on the Santa Ynez road, Edison, drive down right off Baseline, you will see to the right going into Santa Ynez, the old pine tree.

PL: Were there any brothers and sisters on your Mothers side?

Scott: Oh, yes, she came from a family of 11. There were 6 girls and 5 boys. On the Fields side, there were 5 boys and 1 girl. I think Grandfather passed away in 1908.

PL: Do you remember the year the older Fields came to the Santa Ynez Valley?

Scott: No, I do not,(looking in record book) Mother and Father were married May 1, 1888, in Santa Ynez, so the Fields must have lived there a few years before that. I know the Jamisons had.

PL: Did they have large acreage?

Scott: No, I don't think the acreage was so large, that time, I know Grandfather and Grandmother Fields worked on the land and grew grain mostly. And dry farming, no irrigation. Everything was dry farming.

PL: Where did they do their shopping?

Scott: In Santa Ynez, there are still some of the old buildings standing there. I remember when I went to highschool and they are still there on the main street, the butcher shop, grocery store, and of course when Mother and

Father lived there, they were perhaps as many stores as when I went to high school, but there are some still there Murphys Store, Strahan and Edsell.

PL: Your Mother and Father were married in 1888, so where did they make their first home?

Scott: In Happy Canyon, because their first tow children, William and Grace were born there.

PL: When a woman was in child-birth, did she have a doctor?

Scott: Oh, yes, a doctor, Cunnan. I think he took care of her. Then they moved to Los Alamos, Father farmed over there. That was where Jim was born, but then they moved back to Happy Canyon, where I(Maud) and Edmund were born. In October of 1897, they moved to the Zaca Ranch, in Foxen Canyon, 6 miles north of Los Olivos. Leo, Gertrude, Mabl Mable(Mae) Clarence, Eileen, and Thelma were born on the Zaca Ranch. It was there that Clarnece passed away a few hours after birth, and Leo passed away in April 1907. They are both buried in Ballard(Oak Hill Cemetery). All my family are buried there. We had a big plot, Mother, Father, William, Jim, Ed. Gertrude, Leo, Clarence Earl, Ed's wife. Then the Matteis bought a part of our lot, because Fred Mattei is buried there. Jim and Maud attended Santa Ynez Highschool, and Jim drove a spring wagon and they picked up about 12 others(students) by the time we got to school. In 1919 Father moved his family to a large home, 219 W. Park, in Santa Maria. This was much more convienent to go to school, he had four girls in school and decided that 11 miles morning and night was too far to send his girls to school, so thats why we moved to Santa Maria. After Ezra died in 1924, Josie(Mother) ran a successful grocery business located im Santa Maria. She like the other Jamison women were remembered as being excellent cooks. The family grew smaller, as the children grew up and she remodeled and make some apartments up stairs. Josephine was 68 when she passed away, June 1934. She was buried in the family plot in Oak Hill Cemetery.

PL: Do you recall who owned the Zaca Ranch when your Father farmed there?

Scott: Judge Robert Canfield. He was a judge. He was just a charming old gentleman. So many times my Father wanted to buy the ranch, But Father was such a good tenant, and paid his rent, Judge Canfield would not sell. Then there was a adjoining ranch that he owned also, but Judge C. would not sell it either. This one was leased by Louie Fox and he wanted to buy the property. But before the judge did pass away, he did sell it to a man named Davis, Tubby Davis, I don't not know his given name. Mr. Davis still owns some property in Santa Ynez, near Rufugio Road, very lovely people.

PL: How many acres did your Father farm?

Scott: He farmed about the largest ever, 3,000 acres, but the ranch alone consisted of 15,000 acres, a large part was called running cattle. We always said Father raised cattle, horses, pigs, and kids. Nine of us grew to adulthood, three boys and six girls, and there are four girls still living. Our sister Eileen lives in San Diego. Grace is living in Alameda with her unmarried daughter, who is a school teacher. Mae(Mable) changed her name because there were so many horses named Mable. Mae lives in Santa Maria, and I, who was born in 1895 also live in Santa Maria.

PL: Was your Father a successful farmer?

Scott: He was, he worked very hard. He had lots of hired help. H He had lots of hired help. Hay being harvested and bailed and im those days, you did not go around with a bailer in the field that bailed and harvested in one operation. They raked to the bailer, with horses, two men tied the bales. I can't remember the year, before 1919, Mr. Fox and Father bought a combined harvester, the first one in the Valley. It was pulled by 32 horses. With only two reins, that were for the leaders, and the seat was up up very high, that it was so much fun to ride up there. The grain was cut and went into a shute, then into the harvester. The straw went out one way, the grain out the other, where it was sacked. I can remember seeing Father sewing up the sacks.

PL: What was the age of your Mother when she married?

Scott: Well, born in 1867, March she was 21. Father was born March, 1864, so he was 23. After they were married he farmed in Happy Canyon, I don't remember who he rented from over there. And I don't know the owners of the land in Los Alamos, where Jim was born.

PL: Did William and Jim help their Dad on the farm?

Scott: Oh, yes. They all worked, I rode horseback, helped gather up cattle, did alot of things. Guess thats why my skin is like it is now, you did not wear a hat to protect yourself. We wore pants, until the divided skirts.

PL: What is your first recollection?

Scott: My first recollection was when I was 2 years old, when we moved to the Zaca Ranch. Brother Ed was born in June and he was just a baby, and there was a huge oak, white oak tree in the front yard, and a huge live oak in the back yard, as I remember I was right around 2, standing in those white oak leaves that had fallen, right up to my knees in leaves. So you know those leaves were quite high. That is the only memory of moving there. And when I tell people that, they think I'm batty. We had a huge water tank, that was under this live oak tree, and that was where we got our drinking water, people would go by and stop for a drink of our good water. It was piped down and was the nicest water you could want. We always had a very good garden. A few fruit trees, pear, apricot that never got throught bearing. Grapes, and one old walnut. If we could beat the crows to the walnuts, we were lucky. Our ranch living was very good, we had alot of hired men who came in the summertime, For a number of years, we had chinese who cooked. I remember one who came quite regularly from San Luis, by the name of Lee, his first name. They were all good cooks. Then we had a woman named Ella DuVaul, who lived in Los Olivos and she worked for us for many years. Later after Father died, and Mother lived in Santa Maria, Ella came to live

with Mother and helped with the boarders, mostly boys who worked around town.

PL: On the ranch, did you have a bunk house?

Scott: Yes, now I look at the place as we drive by, the old house is gone, it was a big two story house. I look at the space and wonder about the number of buildings we had, and where they were. I can't believe there were so many buildings. We had a bunk house, a poison house, where they kept the poison to kill the ground squirrels in those days, and that was always locked. A harness room, red barn, stalls, and storing grain and wheat, a very large horse barn and between the horse barn and red barn was a pig pen, and then a huge shed where they stored the car, after we got a car, and it was called the tin shed. Quite a bit of machinery was stored there too. Only thing left now are the scales where they weighed things. I don't know the mans name who bot the place, he put in ollieberries, its a new berry. He had quite a patch of there.

PL: Was there a house on the ranch when your family came?

Scott: Judge Canfield built the house and it was there when we moved there. There were four bedrooms upstairs, a hall, I remember it very well because I had to make the beds in those bedrooms. No inside plumbing. It was down the road apiece. Wash bowls and pitchers on wash stands in the rooms, with a place to hang the towels. One bathroom for the whole family, with a tub. We did have hot water for the bathtub, and on Saturday night, the boys heated water for the bath. Always on Saturday night, every one was taking a bath.

End of Side One.

Scott: Mother's children were close. The closet were Gertrude and Mae. Gertrude was born in Jan. 1901 and Mae, March, 1902. Gertrude passed away in 1968. After Dr. Dart died I moved to San Clemente for nine years which I enjoyed very much. Gertrude had been living with the doctor and I she and her husband had been separated and her daughter was married. During the war she worked at Camp Cook.

In San Clemente a little gift shop came up for sale and I had a little money so as Gertrude was a good dressmaker she came to San Clemente to work in the shop. We lived together. It was a success. When I married Mr. Scott I turned the whole thing over to her. She was ill around Christmas time, bronchitis, and passed away very suddenly. I later went down and sold the shop.

PL: Did you ever see your Mother sit down to rest?

Scott: Yes, but not for long. As long as we lived on the ranch she seemed in good health, but we always had lots of help in the home. As we children grew older, we had to work. I remember making ten loafs of bread every other day. We made the beds, did the washing, but we had a man to turn the wheel of the washing machine. I can see those clothes stacked now, on the porch. The sheets, the white things, the colored shirts, and Father would not eat off an oilcloth tablecloth. He had to have a real cloth. Red and white, or blue and white tablecloth. A huge kitchen, twolittle rooms made into a larger room. A heating stove in the dining room. We all had to take turns doing dishes and my sisters would be so mad, as I washed the pots and pans early, so I could get away, while they were still drying the dishes.

PL: What about Christmases?

Scott: We had a huge Christmas, and sometines it was spent at other places. Aunt Susie, my Mother's sister lived on a little ranch out of Santa Ynez. Aunt Susie and Aunt Molly married brothers, and both of them died of T.B., which was very prevalent in those days. The name was Miller. Aunt Susie had two children, Aunt Molly had 3, two boys and one girl. Susie had Lorraine and Joseph Miller, Molly had Warren, Wayne, and Susan.

PL: Is that the Wayne Miller of Ventura,who is 100 years old?

Scott: Thats my cousin. We used to see them every year. We had a family reunion in Manning Park in Montecito, and we would see all these people. My cousin Belt Jamieson was the oldest, he was Uncle Sam's son, and Wayne was next in age. A very handsome man, and we called him Buster.

PL: Did you exchange gits at Christmas?

Scott: Only in the family. Mostly dolls. I remember our dolls would disappear and at Christmas each had a new outfit. Mother had made new clothes. As we grew older Mother had a dressmaker come in to sew us summer clothes. I remember one woman from Los Olivos, named Fordice, she had had polio and could not walk wee, wore funny shoes, but she could sew beautifully. She would come and stay with us three weeks to make all us girls new dresses.

PL: Do you remember your first day of school?

Scott: High school, I certainly do! 40 students compared to 16 at grammer school. I asked where the english room was, and was given instructions,"go thru the auditorium, across the stage, take the door to the right." There were steps into the room, that I did not see, and I fell flat on my face into the classroom. Talk about a entrance into the room! I think the teacher thought she had lost a pupil right there and then. Seven in the class, Glenn Buell was one, and he laughted and laughted. We went to grammer school in Los Olivos until they formed this little district, Zaca, about a mile from our home. There was the Smith Family, the Libeu's, Alma Mitchell from the mines, and the Fields Family. The Libeu family had five girls. Later they moved the school building three miles away just above our farm land and we needed a horse and buggy to get to school. The most we had was 17 students. All grades, Teachers were Mrs. Bartholemeu, (?) Miss Alexander, Miss Robinson, and these ladies lived in homes of her students. Mrs. Bartholamu lived with us, Miss Alexander boarded with the Libeu's. Miss Robison came after I was through school. At highschool the teachers were Mr. O'Hanlan, Principal, Mr. Potter, Commercial teacher, Miss O'Neil, Spanish teacher. That was it. Commercial was typing, bookkeeping, arithmetic. Mr. Potter came from Ballard and was Jeannette Lyons brother-in-law. I remember Grace (Lyons) Davison. She was driving her car, and nearly took the door off the undertakers car, driving too close at a funeral. The car door had been left open.

PL: What ambition did you have after you left school?

Scott: I wanted to be a nurse, but Mother would not permit it. She felt it was a dogs life with scrubbing, and washing patients. I went on with my bookkeeping, and worked for Roemer Brothers in Santa Maria. They had a machine shop Then I went to work fro Dr. Dart, a dentist and later married him, so I had a steady job. He had come to Santa Maria in 1906 to attend to some legal work, he had planned to practice in San Francisco, but the earthquake destroyed S.F. so he stayed in Santa Maria. He lost his first wife in the fly epidemic of 1918.

PL: When Grace got out of highschool, what did she do?

Scott: Grace did not go, she stayed at home. She was the oldest and had to help Mother. I always thought she should have (school). She had three children and saw that they had a good education. She married a man named Patterson, who was an oil rigger in the oil fields. She met him when he came to build an oil rig on our ranch. They found very heavy oil.

PL: What was the girl's name who came from the Asphalt Mines?

Scott: Her name was Hazel Montomery. She came from Sisquoc and stayed with the Libeu's. I don't know what became of her. Alma Mitchell was deaf, and she came from the Sisquoc too. She was alittle younger that I.

PL: Did Bill and Jim help on the ranch?

Scott: Yes. Bill did not like school, he never went on to high school. Jim went to highschool. Jim was born in Jan. 1894. Maud, in 1895. Billmarried a girl named Quintana. Her aunt cooked at Las Cruces, Billmet Lenore there. The Loustalots were owners there. I remember we camped at Las Cruces when Father had the contract to take up the pipe that carried the asphalt to Gaviota. They took up the pipe hauled it to Gaviota, where it was shipped out. Grace took care of the smaller children while we were away. Jim married Susie Campbell of Los Olivos. They had three girls, lived in Fresno. Brother Ed married Iva McKay a highschool teacher. (Arne Hansen also married a highschool teacher, they used to double date) Ed and Iva had three children, Ed. Jack and Virginia. Virginia married John Maddon, the football coach.

Ed finished highschool and farmed for years on the El Roblar Ranch near Los Alamos. He passed away of a heart attack. Jim retired from PG&E in 1959 and was going to ehlp Ed farm, when Ed died. Jim passed away in 1983. Mae had two children. Eileen and Thelma went to grammer school in Santa Maria. Mae married a Nielsen, and now lives in the same apartment complex. Thelma passed away in 1965, of cancer. She was the youngest of the family, born in 1907.

PL: Why did your father move from the ranch?

Scott: Because of the younger girls. He had many gall bladder attacks, and used to doctor them himself. He would not go to the doctor, and after a very bad attack, Maud finally got him to the hospital, but he died in the night just befor surgery. He was 60, died in 1924. We had just move the things we neede to Santa Maria, and Father and Ed. still farmed everyday going to the ranch. Ed farmed after our father died. Judge Canfield started selling parts of the ranch, so Ed moved to the El Roblar Ranch. In Santa Maria we lived on W. Park Street. It was a large house with an orchard. Santa Maria had 3,000 people then in 1919

PL: Tell me about the Libeu Family, of Zaca Lake?

Scott: French family with five girls. Rosadell was the oldest. Eulilie went to live in Oregon. Mr. and Mrs. Libeu separated, he kept the lake but she had half of it. She took the girls to live in Los angeles, and we visited them there. As young girls we were very close, staying overnight.

PL: What about the Smith Family?

Scott: There was Barbara, Jim, Sidney, Jean and Charles. They rented the La Laguna Ranch where Bill Luton is now. You had to go through their ranch to get to the Sisquoc Mines where the Mitchell girl come from.

PL: What about the Davis Family?

Scott: They were at Sisquoc, and at Zaca Lake. In 1979, I met Lonnie Davis at Homesteaders Day. They were good friends of the Libeu's.

PL: Mrs. Scott, do you have children?

Scott: We had one son, Dick. He went through grammer school and highschool here. He lived to drive a truck, and worked for the Bricky Brothers here in Santa Maria. Then he moved

then he moved north and worked for the lumber companies. He married a girl from Santa Maria, they have three children. Dick went back to school, college, and became a teacher. He teaches at the College of the Redwoods. The children are Stephen, Hillery, and Van.

Dr. Dart passed away in 1950, we lived on E. Chapel Street. It had been his home since 1906. After he died, we found a bill for the building of the house, a two bedroom home, for $1400.00.

I knew Mr. Scott for a long time. He came to Santa Maria in 1920, he married the first time in 1930, and they lived in Guadalupe. He worked for the Wallen- Franklin Seed co. He wa a horticulturist. They had two girls. I married Mr. Scott in 1962.

PL: What about Santa Ynez?

Scott: I worked at the College Hotel. Aunt Molly married Mr. Miller and after he died, she married Mr. Bray. They operated the restaurant at the hotel. I would go over and help Aunt Molly after school. I loved the tips we got. The building was two storied and very ornate with gingerbread. Many notable people stayed there.

PL: Did you ever ride the narrow gauge railroad?

Scott: Heavens yes! Many, many times. You see, when I was in high school, I was on the basketball team, and we used to play other school; Arroyo grande, San Luis Obispo, Lompoc, Cal Poly, and to get there we went by railroad north. In Lompoc we went with John Wright, in a livery stable rig and stayed over night. I would stay with Bertrude Marshall. And also the Rudolf girl. I was a guard, Barbara McGillvery was the foreward, Sadie Tunnell played. We wore bloomers and mitties Miss O'Neil went with us, and Frances Thompson played too. Her father was the Presbyterian minister they had 11 children. Frances lived to dance. and her father did not approve. Jeannette Lyons used to visit us at Zaca Ranch. Sides Store had dances upstairs. I went to the movies at Dallas Davis theater. After we had a car, we would come down for the show. Father had a Pierce Arrow, a man named Gar Lockwood taught me how to drive, I learned in 1912. Father was a terrible driver. We had a horse and buggy to go shopping in

to town, our horse was Flossie and she could travel so fast. We shopped at Dallas Davis store. And the catalog shopping later because Father bought staple groceries. We bought from Pacific Wholesale, San Francisco, and the goods were sent to us by railroad. It was so much fun to open all those packages: soda crackers, candy, coffee, flour, tea, rice, all in wooden boxes. Sam Davis also ran a store and we bot candy from him. Ed. went to war. (W.W.I) I was present when they put up the flag pole in Los Olivos. A young chap that had returned, Rube DeVaul was there saluting the flag. The depression years were bad. Dr. Dart was not always paid for the work he did on peoples mouths.

PL: Thank you Mrs. Scott for the time you have given me today.